

3 Ways to Have a Better Relationship With Your

Mother-in-law

1. Pray for her & your relationship.

- If you are having trouble being kind and peaceful, or your mother-in-law is just straight up testing your patience, then PRAY FOR HER! Adrian Rogers said to do this when you are having a hard time being kind to someone: "Write the person's name down and pray for them everyday by name. Whenever the Lord brings it to your mind, pray for her. Eventually, you'll find it becomes harder to be annoyed by someone you are praying for everyday." That is some pretty great advice, but it is much easier to read than to actually do. Make it a daily spiritual discipline to pray for your mother-in-law, for the relationship you want, instead of being annoyed with the one you currently have! God can make peace where you didn't think possible

2. Find something you have in common.

- You will always have your husband and kids in common, so find some things that go beyond that to bond over! If you both like to read, then pass books along to each other and talk about them. If you both like to shop, then plan a shopping trip out of town overnight together to Christmas shop. If you like to decorate, offer to help her if she wants to re-do a room in her house. If you like to cook, ask if you can come over early before a family or holiday meal and learn from her cooking secrets. If you are both into fitness, walk together a few days a week or take a yoga class together and go out to lunch. For Mother's Day or a birthday, give her a gift card for a manicure or spa day and plan to go together. Begin to see her as more than your husband's mom and a babysitter for your kids...see her as a woman and a friend that you have things in common with! More times than now, she wants to spend quality time with you, but doesn't want to overstep.

3. Remember how she feels.

- It's hard to imagine now, but your mother-in-law has not always been a grandmother. She was a young mom at one point, raising your husband when he was just a little boy...and back then, momma was the #1 girl in his life. She rocked him, held him, played with him and was the first one he would run to when he needed someone. Then you came along and that was no longer the case. I imagine it's a joy to see your kids grow up and follow God's plan for their life, including marriage, but that doesn't make it easy to let go! Have a new appreciation for how SHE helped mold him into the man and husband he is today. She has memories treasured in her heart with him, just like you do with your kids. As her to share stories, pictures, scrapbooks, etc. and let her share her sweet memories and her wisdom for learning how to transition in new seasons of life.

You might find you are more alike than you realize...